



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

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HEALTH DEPARTMENTS EXTEND FREE KI TO RESIDENTS, OTHERS IN AREAS NEAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Catawba County Public Health will join with Health Departments in Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties to make free potassium iodide (KI) available to persons who live or work near the McGuire and Catawba nuclear power plants.

Potassium iodide protects the thyroid gland from one type of radiation that may be present in the event of an emergency at one of the nuclear power plants, but it is important that residents do not take their KI pill until told to do so in the event of an emergency. Potassium iodide is not a replacement for evacuation. In the event of a nuclear emergency, there would likely be many types of radiation that could affect all organs of the body. If instructed to do so, the best course of action remains evacuation.

This is the first distribution of free KI to those who live or work in the 10-mile emergency planning zones (EPZ) surrounding this area's two nuclear power plants since 2002.

Catawba County's specific EPZ is bordered by Highway 150 on the north, the Catawba County line on the south, Lake Norman on the east, and Highway 16 on the west.

Those living within the 10-mile EPZ may pick-up potassium iodide at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue at 4011 Slanting Bridge Rd, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 18th. One family member may pick-up two (2) tablets per person for each member of the household.

If residents are unable to pick up KI pills on September 18th, they may come to Catawba County Public Health, located at 3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602, Monday-Friday 8a.m. until 5p.m., to pick up their pills.

KI pills will also be available to businesses that are located within the 10-mile EPZ. Beginning September 20, 2010, business owners may contact Catawba County Public Health at 828-695-5815 to request KI pills for their employees. Business representatives will need to provide the total number of employees that work during their largest shift, and the address, phone number, name of a contact person and signature.

To learn more about KI distribution in Catawba County, please contact Catawba County Public Health at 828-695-5815.



"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"
www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

